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War Ministry

Questions

The foregoing statement is omitted.

1.-----omitted

2.-----omitted

3.- Has your Excellency any intention of ordering the divisional commanders to take part in political propaganda?

You have been talking and discussing political matters, attacking the advocates of disarmament, and appealing to the decision of military men by expounding the present situations in Manchuria and Mongolia. You have even published your views and opinions in written form. There is no doubt that your acts are an indisputable violation of the provision of the Article 103 of the Military Criminal Code. Article 103 of the Military Criminal Code provides that anyone who presents a memorial to the Throne, his views to the government, or any other kind of petition concerning political matters, or gives publicity to his opinions either in a discourse or in written form shall be imprisoned for 3 years or less. We expect that your spirit of observance of law will make you take some measures against what you have done. However the matter does not stop there. You have also sought to have Divisional and Army commanders drive home your opinions in and out of the army within their respective jurisdictions. Here the matter is relative to that political discussion. It goes without saying that to spread this propaganda within the Army is already an adverse act.

The danger of spreading this propaganda outside the Army circle need not be explained.

Furthermore, is it your Excellency's intention to pit the divisional commanders against the politicians in a dispute over the right or wrong of the political arguments?

August 6th, 1931 (Showa 6)

To Your Excellency  
War Minister, General Minami.

OZAKI Yukio and six other members of the Citizen's Disarmament League.